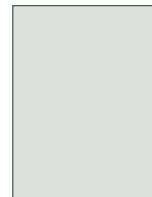


**Jefferson Memorial Forest**  
11311 Mitchell Hill Road  
PO Box 467  
Fairdale, KY 40118

tel • 502/368-6517  
e-mail • [forest@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:forest@louisvilleky.gov)  
web • [www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com)



**Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor**  
Louisville Metro Council

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for an excuse to get outdoors? Are you interested in meeting others who share your love of nature? If so, then the Jefferson Memorial Forest is the place for you. We are always looking for volunteers (age 16 and older) of all backgrounds and abilities to assist us with a wide range of projects.

Examples of projects where you could make a real difference include helping program staff maintain our native plant garden; helping land management staff perform restoration work and conduct inventories of flora/fauna; becoming a member of our Trail Rangers and helping keep our trails clear and safe, or assisting with special events.

If you would like to share your time and gain experience and new friendships in the process, then please contact us. Come share your talents with our present staff of dedicated volunteers. The more life you experience, the more life you will have!

## How CAN You HELP?

The forest is always in need of items to supplement our program offerings and enhance visitor experiences. We are currently seeking donations for the following items. If you would like to assist by contributing towards the purchase of these items, you may send a check made payable to the Jefferson Memorial Forest with a signed and dated letter stating the amount of your donation and its intended purpose (i.e., contribution towards purchase of items below). Or you can always make a donation on your next visit to the Welcome Center. Your contributions are sincerely appreciated.

- Interactive nature exhibit for our Welcome Center lobby: \$8,000
- Teepee for our native American Earth Keepers program: \$3,000
- Laptop computer to support our field-based programs: \$1,500
- Utility shed for storage supplies, including our archery program equipment: \$1,200

### **Metro Parks** **[www.metro-parks.com](http://www.metro-parks.com)**

**Michael J. Heitz**  
*Director*

**Bill Herron**  
*Operations*

**Bennett Knox**  
*Park Manager*

**Larry Hilton**  
*Naturalist/  
Land Management*

**Fred Elbert**  
*Maintenance  
Supervisor*

**Tonya Swan**  
*Coordinator of  
Public Education*

**Christa Weidner**  
*Naturalist/Programs*

**James Crockett**  
**Shawn Nevins**  
*Recreation  
Coordinators*

# YOUR FOREST YOUR ADVENTURE

[www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com)

WINTER  
2005



## Jefferson Memorial Forest

11311 Mitchell Hill Road  
PO Box 467  
Fairdale, KY  
40118

502/368-5404

[forest@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:forest@louisvilleky.gov)

[parks@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:parks@louisvilleky.gov)

[www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com)

[www.metro-parks.com](http://www.metro-parks.com)

### Welcome Center

Mon-Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Sun 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Welcome Center  
is your destination  
for maps, gift items,  
program reservations,  
camping reservations,  
permits and  
forest information

### Directions

From I-65 south, take the  
Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265)  
west and exit at New Cut Road.  
Turn left, go about one mile,  
and turn right onto  
Mitchell Hill Road.  
Follow the signs to the Forest.

### Mission Statement

Metro Parks' mission  
is to provide safe, diverse  
park and recreation facilities  
and programs for all the  
people of Louisville Metro  
to use and enjoy  
and to keep those lands  
and resources in trust  
for future generations.

## DEAR FRIEND OF THE FOREST,

We are pleased to present the premiere issue of the Jefferson Memorial Forest's quarterly newsletter. Our goal is to present you, as a visitor and supporter of the forest, with information that you can use. Did you know the forest has year-round primitive camping at the Horine Reservation? Have you heard about our wonderful summer camp programs for children ages 7 to 12? Would you be interested in knowing what efforts are ongoing to make your hiking experience more enjoyable? Or maybe you would like to find out how you can help support the largest park within the Louisville Metro Park's system, indeed the largest municipally-owned urban forest in the United States! Each issue will answer these questions and more!



*Below: Photo courtesy of John Nation*



As this is the first issue, it is worthwhile to introduce the mission of the Jefferson Memorial Forest. Formation of the forest can be traced to the period after World War II when the Jefferson County government approved creation of a woodland park in honor of local veterans of World War II and established its purpose of providing outdoor recreational opportunities to the citizens of Jefferson County. Over the years, the Forest's mission has steadily evolved and today more emphasis than ever is placed on environmental stewardship. In July 2004, the forest became the anchor of the newly established Natural Areas Region of Metro Parks. Today our mission is three-fold: preserve the forest for the benefit of present and future generations; provide the highest quality environmental- and adventure-based education programs; and offer a wide-range of safe and environmentally-sensitive outdoor recreational opportunities for the benefit of the community.

We hope you will find this and future newsletters informative and we also hope that you will let us hear your comments and suggestions on how we can improve Your Forest and Your Adventure!





## JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST PROGRAMS

Have you heard the buzz about Jefferson Memorial Forest? It may be because of the new programs developed over the past few years. We've expanded our public programs to offer something for everyone - from the avid outdoor enthusiast wanting to expand their knowledge of the outdoors to the pre-school child discovering nature's wonders for the first time. We even offer programs for the family dog!

This summer saw the start of our new Summer Camp program. This was a great success and we received very positive feedback. One parent commented, "I can't say enough positive things about the camp!" We are already planning for next year. Look for more information in our next newsletter.



Jefferson Memorial Forest joined Mayor Jerry Abramson's Healthy Hometown Movement on October 29, when more than 1,000 people visited the forest's Horine Section for a day of hiking, health advocacy and lively music. Many of

the participants were first-time forest visitors, and are now part of our expanding customer base. Mayor Abramson plans to bring his Healthy Hometown Hike back to the forest in 2006!

A big thank you goes out to the community for supporting the first annual Forest Fest! This event included a 30 kilometer relay run, wood crafters, activities for children, and some of the best bluegrass music in the region provided by Fairdale's very own "Stone Hollow" and "Hog Operation".

Last year's event brought over 300 people out to the Forest for a day full of family fun! Please be sure to put Saturday, May 20, 2006, on your calendars for the next Forest Fest!

Our program staff is constantly making improvements to our facilities to expand the educational opportunities we provide. Some of these improvements include creating outdoor learning labs to use in our programs, and for teachers to use independently. This began with the construction of a tracking pit where participants can find and learn how to identify animal tracks. Other labs will include a decomposition station where participants learn how the forest is constantly re-generating itself.

This year, our staff was certified by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife in partnership with the National Department of Archery in the Schools Program. We will add archery to our Earth Keepers programs and our summer adventure camp, and we'll offer a beginners' program in June of 2006.

Finally, although programs have slowed down for the winter, it doesn't mean our program staff is hibernating! During the cold months, we get the opportunity to catch up on our projects and develop new programs for you. Even though Christa Weidner, our naturalist, will be off this winter, she will be working on a very special project of her own. We wish the best to Christa and her husband Eric (a Trail Ranger volunteer) as she enjoys her time off with their new baby, Evan!

## NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY THROUGH MARCH

Anyone can be a naturalist. Webster's Dictionary defines a naturalist "as a student of natural history". To be a naturalist, all you need is curiosity and a few good field guides. In each issue of the newsletter, Naturalist Christa Weidner and Recreation Coordinator James Crockett will provide readers with a few tips on observing the natural world of the Forest. We hope to see you out here!

### JANUARY



*American woodcock*

With snow on the ground, now is a good time to use the Forest's guide to animal tracks, available on our website ([www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com)) or at the Welcome Center. You'll be able to learn what animals have been in the area.

If you have wood duck boxes now is the time to clean them out.

American woodcocks will be migrating.

Camp at the Forest and listen for the calls of the Great Horned Owl during courtship.

### FEBRUARY



*Bluebird*

You can still get a chance to listen to the Great Horned Owl and also the Screech Owl.

Prepare your Bluebird boxes for the nesting season.

*Wood frog*



Sandhill cranes can be heard migrating north overhead.

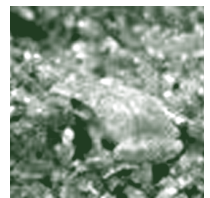
Wood frogs begin to breed. Listen for their call during the first warm rain.

### MARCH

The Forest comes alive as Chorus Frogs and Spring Peepers begin to sing.

Hike the trails and start looking for early spring wildflowers such as...

- Cut-leaf toothwort
- Twinleaf
- Bloodroot
- Spring Beauty



*Spring peeper*

Listen for the gobble of the Wild Turkey.

**Image Credits** American Woodcock: Eric Williams • Eastern Bluebird: Rick Hill • Spring Peeper, Wood Frog: John MacGregor



## PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE

We offer a wide array of programs for all ages. Reservations are required in advance, and a special discount is offered to those who pay in advance.

For more information, log on to our website at [www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com) or call the Welcome Center at 368-5404. Our staff will be happy to help you make reservations, give you directions to the program location, or provide you a complete schedule of our programs throughout the year.

For all programs, please wear close-toed walking shoes, and dress for the weather.

### JANUARY

#### OUTDOOR SKILLS: GETTING THE RIGHT CAMPING GEAR

**Sat, January 7, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Examine different types of camping equipment; learn advantages and disadvantages of different equipment based on the type of outdoor trip planned. Meets at the Welcome Center. *Fee:* \$5 with pre-registration; \$7.50 if paid the day of the program.

#### WINTER BIRD WATCHING: SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM

**Mon, January 9, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

See who is visiting the Bird Blind in winter. It may be cold outside, but you will be warm and toasty gazing at the birds inside the Horine Environmental Education Center bird blind. A box lunch can be ordered when registering. Program meets at the Fairdale Playtorium. Shuttle service provided. *Fee:* Free

#### WINTER WONDERLAND HIKE

**Sat, January 14, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Hike through some of the most beautiful trails in the Forest, to view wildlife, and witness forest in winter. The hike will end with hot chocolate around a fire in the Welcome Center. *Fee:* \$5 with pre-registration; \$7.50 the day of the program.

### FEBRUARY

#### OUTDOOR SKILLS: CAMPFIRE COOKING

**Sat, February 4, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Learn how to be a campfire gourmet. Our staff will share tips and recipes, ideal for cooking great meals in the outdoors. Sign up early because space is limited. Families welcome. Program meets at the Welcome Center.

*Fee:* \$5 with pre registration; \$7.50 if paid the day of the program.

#### VALENTINE'S DAY ROMANTIC RETREAT

**Tue, February 14, 7:30-10 p.m.**

Looking for something romantic to do with your sweetheart this year? Hike through the forest to a beautiful view of the lights of Louisville. The hike's destination is the Forest's beautiful Manor House where you'll be greeted by a roaring fire, hot beverages and desserts. Meets in the Horine Reservation. *Fee:* \$20 per couple. Reservations must be made by Thursday, February 10, 2005.

#### LOVE N' THE HILLS ULTRA RUN

**Sat, February 18**

Registration and information can be found at [www.cherokeeroadrunners.org/llth/index.html](http://www.cherokeeroadrunners.org/llth/index.html).

### MARCH

#### OUTDOOR SKILLS: BIRD WATCHING

**Sat, March 4, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Learn about the birds of Kentucky and how to find them. Forest staff will share some of the great places to view birds, and how to use a bird guide to identify the birds you see. Families are welcome with children 8 years and older. Program meets in the Welcome Center. *Fee:* \$5 with pre-registration; \$7.50 if paid the day of the program.

#### GARDENING IN JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST'S NATIVE GARDENS

**Mon, March 6, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Naturalist, Christa Weidner will guide participants in a variety of garden projects that teach, as well as maintain the beauty of the Native garden and Butterfly Garden. There will be things to learn, as participants do such things as light weeding, transplanting, and pruning. Participants are welcome to bring garden gloves, but we will have extra on hand. Cold water will be provided. Seniors may order a box lunch when registering for this outing. Seniors meet at the Fairdale Playtorium for shuttle service. Other volunteers can meet at the Horine Env. Ed. Center. *Fee:* Free

#### PRESCHOOL NATURE ADVENTURE: SPRING AWAKENINGS

**Tue, March 7, 9:30-11 a.m.**

Bring your little ones out to explore the wonder and beauty of Nature as spring appears. This program is for parents and children ages 2 to 4. Ask about our series discount. Meets in the Horine Environmental Education Center. *Fee:* \$8 per child.

#### NIGHT HIKE: NIGHT KEEPERS, LEGENDS AND LORE OF THE NIGHT SKY

**Friday, March 10, 7:30-10 p.m.**

Join staff of Jefferson Memorial Forest as they share some of the stories and myths that the Native Americans and other cultures told to explain the constellations. Families are welcome. A delicious S'more treat will be provided around a campfire. Program meets in the Horine Reservation. *Fee:* \$5 with pre-registration; \$7.50 if paid the day of the program.

#### HOWL AT THE MOON

**Fri, March 17, 7-8:30 p.m.**

Come out to the Forest for an evening romp through the woods with your dog! Keep in mind that your dog will be around other dogs and people. Non-retractable leashes and good behavior are required. Meets in the Horine Reservation. *Fee:* \$5 per dog with pre-registration; \$7.50 if paid the day of the program.

#### ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY WASTE – GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL!

Please do your part to save trees and keep our costs down. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of future newsletters, please e-mail [forest@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:forest@louisvilleky.gov) with the request "subscribe to newsletter." Please include your name and the mailing address where you received this issue, so we can make sure you stop receiving printed copies of the newsletter.